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Environment and sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Jan Kára (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

[1] A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.
[3] A/57/189.

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2. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Government of Ecuador, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, towards the establishment, and the announcement made regarding the January 2003 opening, of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages all parties to continue their joint efforts for the development of the Centre;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research Centre at Guayaquil, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to studying the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Encourages* the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrologic services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research and other relevant centres as appropriate, in order to ensure an effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to ensure appropriate consideration of measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events like the El Niño phenomenon in the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[4]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220, 55/197 and 56/194 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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[4] A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.